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ABSTRACT

This report is based on a survey undertaken by the Mayor's Office in Chicago to ascertain the effects of proposed HEW regulations for Title IV-A funds on the eligibility of families now using day care services in Chicago. The survey attempted to: (1) obtain actual profiles of the families currently using non-profit day care centers, (2) establish what the actual or potential costs of this care are to the public, and (3) make comparisons of these costs to welfare costs for those who would use Public Assistance as an alternative to day care. Based on 566 complete questionnaires, the following conclusions were made: (1) provision of quality day care services is enabling 45% of the respondents to stay off the welfare rolls and another 26% who are already receiving welfare to work or receive job training; (2) the services are making significant contributions to qualitative improvements in their clients' lives by making it possible for them to become self-supporting and for their children to have better opportunities for educational and social development; and (3) the clients are concerned parents, who care deeply about the quality of child care in the community. Parental statements and family profiles are included in this report. (DP)

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RICHARD J. DALEY
MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

MAYOR'S OFFICE
OF
CHILD CARE SERVICES

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Assistant to the Mayor
for Child Care

PS 006872

A CASE FOR DAY CARE IN CHICAGO

A Study of Families Using Not-For-Profit Day Care Centers

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A Study of Families Using Not-For-Profit Day Care Centers

Respectfully Submitted To: The Honorable Richard J. Daley
Mayor
City of Chicago

Date: JUNE 14, 1973

By: Mrs. Murrell Syler
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for Child Care Services

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FORWARD

FORWARD

This report is the result of a survey undertaken by the Mayor's Office of Child Care Services to ascertain the effects the proposed HEW regulations for Title IV-A funds would have on the eligibility of families now using day care centers in Chicago which are supported by Title IV-A funds.

It was important to go directly to parents of children being served to obtain first hand information about the value of the day care services being rendered to their children and to find out how the proposed HEW regulations would affect them. Another important objective of the study was to compare the costs of providing day care to the costs of providing public assistance to families using the publicly supported day care centers. Data was also needed to determine what the alternative arrangement would need to be if these families could not qualify as eligible for day care services under the new proposed regulations. Would it be necessary for them to either stay on public assistance or apply for such assistance as the alternative to day care?

The results of the study revealed that provision of quality day care in not-for-profit centers, where costs are either free or within the range parents can afford, is actually keeping approximately 45 percent of the 566 families who participated in the study off the welfare rolls at a minimum cost of less than half of what the welfare costs would be for an assistance payment grant and medical benefits. It is enabling another 26 percent presently on Public Assistance the opportunity to hold jobs, or participate in job training or school which may assist them toward self-sufficiency. More impressive than the economic statistics and savings in dollars, which for the 403 families who would otherwise be on welfare, would amount to $751,285 for the minimum cost of day care as compared with $1,711,888 for basic public assistance or a difference in cost of $960,603; is the expressed difference day care is making in the lives of the parents who are striving to attain their own potential and become self-supporting, self-respecting and contributing members of society. Respondents expressed abhorance of public assistance and a loss of hope for themselves and their children should they not be able to retain their jobs because the day care centers are not able to care for their children. They see this not only in terms of interrupted progress they are making toward a better life through their own efforts in school, job training or advancement on jobs they now hold,but,almost without exception, the parents responding view the quality of care and the educational and social development opportunities their children are receiving in the day care centers as essential for their children to have a chance for normal and healthy development and for their welfare and happiness. The motivation and development of the parents striving upward and their determination that they must provide quality care for their children which will enable the children to succeed, permeate the entire study. Even if the economic aspects did not support the need for the care these children are receiving, the strong feeling expressed by the parents would justify the study itself.

It is evident that these parents care deeply about their children and are aware of the advantages they receive in the centers. Most do not themselves feel capable of providing the stimulating experiences their children receive in day care centers. They do not feel that they have the training of the teachers, the equipment and/or environment provided in the centers. In addition, they feel their children are benefiting by being with other children and learning to get along with both teachers and children from other backgrounds.

The parents recognized that the pre-school period in the lives of their children is important to their development and expressed the concern, that if this developmental period is not enhanced, there will be an irreversible lack of opportunity to develop and learn later. There were frequent referrals in the responses about the improvement in a child's behavior or development, such as overcoming stuttering, shyness, nervousness, being withdrawn, not being capable of taking care of himself, crying and temper tantrums.

In addition to the parents who responded to our questionnaire being very much aware of the advantages of quality child care for their children, which goes far beyond general public opinion, they were both unable and unwilling to leave their children with "just anybody" and particularly negative about the use of "sitters" who they felt were unreliable and unable to give the child quality educational experiences. They would, if faced with the inability to have the services of the center in which their child was enrolled or one like it, either quit their jobs, their training programs, or school.

The respondents were highly motivated to continue their jobs, their training, or school and felt they were "getting someplace" and preparing for a better life. In almost every case, the prospect of asking for public assistance was viewed as a last resort. Never-the-less, 38.20 percent could see no other alternative if they could not keep their children in the day care centers. This was true of the families now on welfare who were seeking to work their way off Public Assistance, either by employment, job training, or completing school as well as those who had already attained a self-supporting status.

The responses of the parents in this study should be of particular interest to those who wish to obtain a profile of the poor and near poor, those on welfare and those trying to make it on their own who are young parents of young children genuinely and intelligently concerned with the development of their children and their own development into self-sustaining, contributing members of society.

We merely provided an opportunity for the respondents to tell us what day care means to them and the consequences to themselves, their families and the children receiving this care, should it become unavailable to them.

Over 20 percent of them took the time and made the effort to respond in poignant terms which could not be anticipated. Whether their responses were literate or not, with mispelled and misused words, they got their message across. Although it was optional, almost all signed their names to their completed questionnaires.

We ask that you carefully consider the expressions of these parents which are reflected through this report. It is our hope that your conclusions will be such that you give priority to the expansion of quality licensed day care so that it is available to meet the needs of the families of the over 90,000 children under six with mothers who are in the labor force in the City of Chicago.

Respectfully Submitted To: The Honorable Richard J. Daley
Mayor of Chicago

Date: JUNE 14, 1973

By: Mrs. Murrell Syler
Administrative Assistant
to the Mayor for
Child Care Services

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

When HEW issued proposed regulations limiting the use of Title IV-A funds under the Social Security Act to specific income groups and further stipulated that recipients of services must categorically qualify as potential Public Aid recipients under ADC or ADCU and must pass a strigent means test administered by the Illinois Department of Public Aid, there was a loud and strong opposition from citizens groups supporting day care and from parents of children currently being cared for in various day care programs in Chicago.

The Mayor's Office of Child Care Services saw a need to obtain specific information from the parents of children enrolled in Day Care Programs receiving public funds to ascertain the effects these and other regulations would have on the families and children in these programs and to provide this information to the Mayor of Chicago and through him to other elected officials representing our interest at the city, the state and the congressional levels.

Originally, the object of this study was to ascertain basic data on families using not-for-profit day care including net income, cost of day care being provided, reasons the family used day care and to obtain some data on the numbers of families who would become ineligible under the proposed HEW regulations published February, 16th, and the effect this might have on the employment of parents and the welfare of the children who could not continue to receive these services.

It was also proposed to calculate the difference in cost between providing day care for families who, without this care, would find it necessary to apply for public assistance. While this information has been provided in the study, the subsequent revisions on May 1st of the eligibility requirements have substantially reduced the number of families who would be financially ineligible for services and therefore this is less of an issue than the originally proposed financial eligibility limitations to families whose incomes did not exceed 133 percent of the basic public assistance grant for which they would be eligible in their respective states.

Families must now have incomes no higher than 150 percent for free day care services and no higher than 233 percent for services on a sliding scale based on the standard public assistance grant for which they would be eligible if they were in fact on Public Assistance. What is still an issue and of concern are the stipulations in the present regulations that the families using day care which is funded through Title IV-A must also apply for these services to the Illinois Department of Public Aid and must otherwise meet the categorical requirements of a public aid recipient. This includes a strigent means test which would include value of property owned, bank account deposits and other assets. The magnitude of the problem is found in the fact that this must be done every six months for what is termed "potential public aid recipients."

This means for those families having a father, or both parents, that the father must either be disabled, unemployed or absent from the home. He cannot be in school, in training or working at a wage which is low enough to put him and his family into the eligibility categories stipulated. For the female headed heads of households where the mother is the only wage earner and the sole support of her family and day care permits her to work or she would be otherwise forced to go on welfare, this situation would continue to exist and the reafirmation of it every six months would only increase paperwork for the Illinois Department of Public Aid and cause loss of work time and cost of transportation for the mother each time this occurs.

More important than all these objections to the regulations as they now stand, is the demeaning position they put these working poor into by requiring them to apply for services to the department of public aid and to be subjected to such a means test every six months.

THE SURVEY

Objective

The purpose of this study was to obtain actual profiles of the families currently using not-for-profit Day Care Centers in Chicago; to ascertain the actual and potential public costs of this care, and to make comparisons of these costs to welfare costs for those who would see applying for Public Assistance as the only alternative should their children become ineligible for Day Care due to the proposed restrictions in the Title IV-A regulations.

The Survey Procedure

On March 13, 1973, 45 directors of not-for-profit Day Care Centers attended a meeting in the Mayor's Office of Child Care Services to discuss the need for gathering factual information on how the proposed HEW regulations for the use of Title IV-A funds would affect the children and families using these centers.

The project was explained, and directors told how data would be used and were assured that individual responses would be kept confidential. Forty-three of these directors interested in distributing questionnaires to parents in their centers requested 2,630 forms. These were to be completed by the parents, sealed in a postage paid envelope, and mailed directly to the Mayor's Office of Child Care Services, thus insuring the privacy of responses.

A letter explaining the purpose of the study, assurance of confidentiality of individual replies, and instructions for returning the completed forms was attached to each survey form and return envelope. Copies of the letter inviting Center directors to the meeting where the survey was discussed and the letter to parents appear at the end of this report.

Methods for distributing questionnaires to parents were determined by the directors. There was a twelve day time period between the day they received questionnaires and the requested return date. Many Center directors utilized parent meetings where questionnaires were distributed and time made available for parents to complete the information. Others sent the letters and attached questionnaires home by the children, or gave them to parents when they called for their children. In some instances center staff offered assistance to parents who requested it in completing the information. This was most frequently given in cases where parents wished to dictate responses because of their reluctance or inability to handwrite their responses to open-ended questions. However, the wording of responses are in the language of the parents themselves even when dictated, and staff of the Centers did not review the individual questionnaires.

On March 25, or shortly thereafter, 597 completed questionnaires had been received from families in 38 of the centers. This was a return of 22.70 percent of the questionnaires within a 12 day period from 88.37 percent of the centers where questionnaires were taken for distribution. Twenty-nine of the questionnaires returned were incomplete and two were received too late to be included in data analysis. These thirty-one questionnaires were excluded from the sample data analyzed.

The questionnaire was designed to elicit the following information from the parents of children presently enrolled in Chicago's not-for-profit Day Care Centers. Most of these are subsidized at least in part by Title IV-A.

1. identification and location of the Center.
2. The net "take home" pay of parents.
3. The occupation of parents.
4. Job or work expenses of working parents.
5. Whether either or both parents are in school or job training.
6. Whether there is additional family income and, if so, the sources, including Public Assistance, child support, Social Security, disability benefits, veteran's benefits, family donations, rentals, etc.
7. Monthly rental (or mortgage) payment.
8. Number of persons in family living on reported income.
9. Ages of family members.
10. Number and ages of children in Day Care Center.
11. Amounts per month paid for Day Care Center care.
12. Reasons parents used the Day Care Center for their children.
13. Length of time Day Care Center services will be required for children now enrolled.
14. What other arrangements could be made for children if care in this Center were not available.
15. What effects other arrangements would have on child in Day Care and on other members of the family.

16. What would happen to the family in the event of losing the services of the Center for the children.

17. The effect this would have on either or both parents' employment.

18. How the family would be supported if either or both parents could not work.

19. Whether the ability of any other family member to work would be affected if child could not attend Center.

And finally,

20. Whether there would be any change life style if the child could not receive Center services, and explanation.

21. Family member completing questionnaire (mother, father or other person) and date completed.

22. (optional) Name and address of respondent.

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METHOD

METHOD

Questionnaires were numbered as they came in and recorded as received from particular centers.

The basic welfare grant for which each of the families would be eligible, should they become public aid recipients, was calculated according to formulas used by the Illinois Department of Public Aid by family size and age for each of the respondents. Each questionnaire was coded indicating family composition and the amount of the basic Public Assistant grant.

The following information was then recorded on each questionnaire:

1. The identification number
2. The code for calculating the basic Public Assistance grant, which indicated:
   A. Whether there were one or two parents
   B. The number of children and the age brackets into which they fell (5 years and under; 6-12 years; 13-20 years)
3. The basic Public Assistance grant amount in dollars, based on the above described code and allowing for the maximum rental allowance[1]
4. The annual dollar amounts of 1.50 times the basic Assistance grant and 2.33 times the grant
5. The annual take home pay income reported.
6. The projected annual cost of providing welfare assistance to the family. This was calculated by using the basic grant amount and increasing it so that the total grant included 25.1% for estimated medical costs.[1] This was actually accomplished by dividing the basic Assistance grant by .749.
7. The reported dollar amounts of fees paid annually for Day Care services for children enrolled in the centers.
8. The annual dollar costs of Day Care for children enrolled in the Day Care Centers. These minimum costs were calculated by estimating a cost of $1,600 per preschool child enrolled for a full day and for a full year, and by estimating a cost of $600 a year for before and after school children enrolled for the 40 week school year.

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[1] These calculations were made with the advice and cooperation of the Research Division of the Cook County Department of Public Aid, based on their most current analyses of payments to public aid recipients.

This minimum includes only good Day Care with a quality educational component. It was used for the basic comparison for Welfare versus Day Care costs for several reasons:

A. The projected Welfare cost is also minimal. It includes only the basic welfare payment or grant and the estimated percentage of medical costs. It does not include costs for special services or programs, administrative costs for the agency, or staff for providing special services and programs such as job-training, counseling, etc. Since these costs are not included in the Welfare cost projections, it seemed appropriate and realistic to use the very minimum cost for Day Care for comparative purposes.

B. This average cost per child falls within the lower 20 percent range of budgeted costs per child for 19 centers funded by the State with Title IV-A funds, and there are good proprietary centers with quality educational components operating at and below this cost.

We do not, however, mean to suggest that this minimum should be used as a standard or average for estimating quality Day Care costs. The Council for Community Services has studied the actual costs of 29 public and private centers operating in the State and in the Chicago metropolitan area. Omitting special services and transportation, the average actual costs per child per year is $2,020. A typical Model Cities program for 40 children, omitting special services, averages $1,835 per child per year.

In considering the costs for providing quality Day Care these costs are more appropriate estimates of what present quality programs supported through public funds are actually spending. For this reason, some of the tables comparing Welfare Costs to Day Care costs include the percent of Welfare to Day Care costs using these two averages. Other cost comparisons can easily be made by multiplying the cost per child per year by the number of children and dividing this into the projected Welfare costs.

9. A code indicating annual income level and amount of day care costs being paid for children enrolled in the day care centers. This was computed by tallying these two variables on a two way grid numbered by income intervals and lettered by costs paid intervals. Questionnaires were then sorted into four basic groups, each having a subgroup of one parent and two parent families as follows:

A. Those families currently receiving Public Assistance funds. This group was further divided into three categories for both the one parent and two parent families:

1) Those families where one or both parents were working or seeking work.
2) Those families where one or both parents were in school, in job training, or who were seeking or anticipating entering such programs.

3) Those families where one or both parents were neither working, in school, or in job training and where there was no apparent plan or intent to do so.

B. Those families who were not on welfare but whose reported incomes were below 1.50 times the basic Public Assistance grant for which they would be eligible.

C. Those families who were not on welfare but whose reported income fell between 1.50 and 2.33 times the basic Public Assistance grants for which they would be eligible.

D. Those families whose incomes were in excess of 2.33 times the Public Assistance Grant for which they would be eligible.

10. After sorting into these categories, all of the questionnaires were carefully read and, within each of the four above categories (A-D) and for each of the one parent and two parent groups within the categories they were sorted and coded into:

A. Those respondents who, without hesitation, answered questions #16, 19, 20, and 21 that they would have no other alternative arrangements if their children could not attend the center in which they were enrolled; that they would have to quit their jobs and that they would have to go on welfare to support the family.

B. Those respondents who, in answer to the above questions, gave less definitive answers and seemed to attempt to explore or envision other possibilities in answering questions 16 and 19, but finally did answer questions 20 and 21 indicating that they would have to quit their jobs and that they would also have to ask for public aid to support their families.

C. Those respondents who indicated that they would not have to go on welfare if their children could not attend the center in which they were enrolled.

ANALYSIS

There are 66 Day Care Centers in Chicago, with licensed capacities for 5,483 children, supported either totally or partially with Title IV - A funds.

The forty-three center directors who accepted the invitation and attended the meeting to discuss the survey represented 65% of these centers. Responses were received from 38 centers, or 57.58% of the total such centers in the city. The children represented in the usable questionnaires totaled 1,395 or 25.44% of the total licensed capacity for Title IV-A centers in the city. Our sample represents a little over half of the Title IV-A funded centers and about a fourth of the available licensed capacities for children of these centers.

Families who were Welfare Recipients

Of the 566 responses analyzed, 201 or 35.51% of the families were on the Welfare rolls. Of these families, 143 were working, were in job training, or were in school, and 91.54% were from one parent, usually female headed, households. These 143 families said they could not continue to work toward getting off Welfare without Day Care Center services.

Families not on Welfare with incomes at or less than 1.50 times the basic Welfare grant

There were 110 of these families or 19.43% of the respondents in this group, and 85 of these or 77.27% were from one parent female-headed households. 98 or 89.09% of these families indicated they would apply for Public Assistance if Day Care Center services were not available to them.

Families not on Welfare with incomes between 1.51 and 2.33 times the basic Welfare grant.

There were 170 of these families or 30.04% of the sample, and 126 or 74.12% were from one parent female-headed households. 137 or 80.59% indicated that they would apply for Public Assistance if Day Care center services were not available for their children.

Families with incomes 2.34 times and over the basic Welfare grant

There were 85 of these families or 15.02% of the sample, and 35 or 41.18% of these were from one parent female-headed households. 25 or 29.41% of these families said they would apply for Public Assistance if Day Care services were not available for their children.

For the 143 Welfare families, representing 71.14% of the families on Public Assistance, and 25.27% of the total respondents, the benefits of being able to send their children to the day care centers are seen by them as an opportunity to work or look for work or to enter or continue school or training programs which they believe will enable them to get off the welfare rolls.

These 143 families now on Public Assistance who say that they are trying to get off the Welfare rolls and need the services of the Day Care Centers to do so, plus 260 families who are not on welfare, but indicate they would have to ask for Public Assistance if they could not have their children cared for in the Day Care Centers, represent 403 of the 566 respondents and 71.20% of the sample.

While this data cannot be extended to represent total families using not-for-profit centers, and those either utilizing or eligible for Title IV-A funds, it can be substantiated that 71.20% of these respondents have expressed the value of the Day Care Centers to them in either keeping them off public assistance or assisting them in ways that they think will make it possible for them to get off the Welfare rolls.

ANALYSIS OF RESPONDENTS WHO ARE NOT ON THE WELFARE ROLES

GRAND TOTAL

	Total Families	Percentage of Total Sample	Percentage Welfare Cost Day Care Cost 1/	Projected Welfare Cost 1/	Projected Day Care Cost 1/	Those who say they would go on Welfare if Day Care Center services were not available to the: Number Families	Percentage This Table
Total	365	62.90%	232%	$1,117,702	$481,600	260	71.23%
1 Parent	246	57.21%	230%	$ 952,889	$414,600	228	92.68%
2 Parent	119	87.50%	246%	$ 164,813	$ 67,000	32	26.89%
Take Home Pay 150% of Public Assistance or Under							
	Number	Percentage This Table					
Total	110	30.14%	238%	$ 446,693	$188,000	98	89.09%
1 Parent	85	34.55%	227%	$ 361,003	$159,000	82	96.47%
2 Parent	25	21.01%	295%	$ 85,690	$ 29,000	16	64.00%
Take Home Pay Between 151% & 233%							
Total	170	46.58%	236%	$ 584,327	$247,800	137	80.59%
1 Parent	126	51.22%	239%	$ 525,741	$220,200	125	99.21%
2 Parent	44	36.97%	212%	$ 58,586	$ 27,600	12	27.27%
Take Home Pay 234% & Over							
Total	85	23.29%	189%	$ 86,682	$ 45,800	25	29.41%
1 Parent	35	14.23%	187%	$ 66,145	$ 35,400	21	60.00%
2 Parent	50	42.02%	197%	$ 20,537	$ 10,400	4	8.00%

Comparison Welfare Costs vs Day Care Costs for 260 families above 1/

204%	$1,117,702	$546,695	Based on $1,835 per-child per year
190%	$1,117,702	$597,940	Based on $2,020 per child per year

Mayor's Office of Child Care Services
June 21, 1973

ANALYSIS OF WELFARE FAMILIES IN THE SAMPLE

	Number of Families	Percentage of Total Sample	Percentage Welfare Cost Day Care Cost	Projected Welfare Cost 1/	Projected Day Care Cost 1/	Those who say they would stay on Welfare if Day Care Center services were not available to them: Number Families 1/	Percentage This Table
Total	201	35.51%	198%	$834,432	$420,800	143	71.14%
1 Parent	164	42.79%	195%	$751,818	$385,600	130	70.65%
2 Parent	17	12.50%	235%	$ 82,614	$ 35,200	13	76.47%

Total	Working or seeking jobs No.	Percent	In School, Training or anticipating these No.	Percent	Other No.	Percent
Total	12	5.97%	131	65.17%	58	28.86%
1 Parent	8	4.35%	122	66.30%	54	29.35%
2 Parent	4	23.53%	9	52.94%	4	23.53%

Comparison Welfare costs with Day Care costs for total 143 families who say they would stay on Welfare 1/

173%	$834,432	$482,605	Based on $1,835 per child per year
157%	$834,432	$531,260	Based on $2,020 per child per year

Mayor's Office of Child Care Services
June 21, 1973

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The overwhelming evidence in the data reveals the courageous efforts on the part of the parents to be and continue to be self supporting, their striving to upgrade and improve their own skills and their deep appreciation of the kind of care their children are receiving which they acknowledge is far beyond the quality of care and climate for the development of their children's potential they themselves could provide if the entire responsibility for the care of their children were to be theirs.

In almost all 566 responses received, the reasons for the children being placed in the Day Care Centers are related to the advantages the child receives in combination with the chance that the parent, who is actually the mother, is having to develop herself either through attending school, job training or accepting employment. The abhorance of being on Public Aid, or returning to it, or the prospect of having to resort to it if care for their children were not available was unsolicited by the questionnaire itself. Nevertheless, it permeated almost all responses and was expressed by the respondents in language and content which could not have been anticipated nor articulated by other than the authentic "voices of the parents."

The task of communicating these responses in summary is a difficult one, but the real value and importance of this study has proved to be that it reveals in both quality and quantity the facts that:

1. The recipients and users of Day Care which is either free or subsidized in part in Chicago are hard working parents, or mothers without husbands present. They are intelligently and genuinely concerned that their children receive quality care which they feel is important and necessary for their development during the pre-school years so that they will have a chance to fulfill themselves. They recognize that these years are crucial and that opportunities missed for this development will be irreversible.

They are not willing to leave their children with "just anybody" and baby sitters in particular.

In almost no cases when the parent was asked why they enrolled their children in Day Care was the answer just so that the mother could work. It almost always included the developmental advantages the child was receiving. In many cases, conditions such as being withdrawn, shy, a stutterer, or hyper-active which had previously existed were mentioned with the fact that these had improved. In almost all cases the parent pointed out the child's happiness, his learning ability, his alertness and self-sufficiency.

2. Concurrent with the welfare of the child, the parent or parents were concerned with their own development; their chance to make something of themselves; their need to continue or finish school, to enter or continue in a job training program or to continue their jobs. There were a very small percentage of parents who were not in one of these categories. These few were either in poor physical condition or had a large number of other children to look after. Some could not read or write but had dictated their responses. Some had mental or emotional problems and there were a few cases where the husband was disabled and the wife had to work or prepare herself to support the family.

In a few cases, the father was the sole parent; in others, the grandmother had the responsibility of young children alone, and the concer was exclusively for the growth, development and welfare of the childr

3. In almost all cases the parent or parents did not, themselves, feel capable of providing the children with the types of developmental experiences they were receiving in the Day Care Centers. This was universally true for the low income working poor where it was stated over and over again that the teachers in the centers were teaching the children in ways the parents were not trained or capable of doing. In the minority of cases where the parent was in a professional position or in college there was still this feeling that the Day Care Center was providing developmental experiences which the child would otherwise not receive.
This included socialization and learning to get along with other children. In the minority of cases where Day Care was being used by professionals or parents in institutions of higher learning, all or most of the cost was being paid by the parents who were financially able.

4. Parents were usually highly motivated to improve their own status and either to become or continue to be self supporting. When asked what the effect of not having the Day Care Center services available would be on the family and on the parent, those on Public Aid, as well as those who would see themselves as having no other alternative but to go on assistance, indicated that they would feel hopeless. The responses of those who would obviously have no other alternative were poignant in the alternatives they would try in order to continue their own development and to avoid Public Aid.

5. The parents did not consider that there were other alternatives for care of their children such as baby sitters or other arrangements. They cited the instability of sitter arrangements, the fact that sitters could not teach the children what they were learning in the centers. Most had no close relatives or family members who could be depended upon to care for their children and they were not willing to leave their children with "just anybody."

In other words, these parents cared about the kind of environment their children were in. It was important to them and they were not using the centers just as a convenience.

6. In spite of the high motivation of the parents to continue in school, in training, or in a job; those who were the sole support of their families, particularly in female headed households; most felt that if the services of the center where their children were enrolled were not available to them they would be forced, however rectulantly, to apply for Public Assistance, at least until the youngest child was old enough for public school. They all saw this as a great detriment to the realization of their personal goals and the expectations that they had for their children.

Another point which can be made is that the families who are working and gainfully employed are contributing tax dollars and this would be a financial loss to the economy as well as an increase in the cost of maintaining the families on welfare.

In this report, we will attempt to quote responses which will give the reader an understanding of the above summary. It was not the original intent of the study to gather data to assess the value of day care, but the expression of the parents speaks so strongly to the value of day care for their children and for themselves that it overrides the statistical evidence which the study was designed to provide. Namely that provision of subsidized quality day care in Day Care Centers is necessary for the upward mobility of the Public Aid recipient family, the poor and near poor in so far as their movement out of poverty is concerned and that it is far less expensive than the cost of maintaining the families of young children on the Public Assistance rolls, where the majority of them would have to be if this day care were not available to them. The study does substantiate these conclusions.

Summary

1. An overwhelming percentage of the respondents were from one parent families, usually headed by the mother, although there were a few headed by the father alone, a grandmother or an aunt. There were 430 such families or 76 percent of the 566 in the total sample.

2. Almost all respondents were in school, in job training, working or seeking to be in these activities. There were a very few Public Aid recipients, only 10 percent of the total sample and 29 percent of of those on Public Aid in the sample, where disability of one or both parents or some pathological condition of a child or parent made these activities impossible and the home environment undesirable for the child.

3. Nearly all those respondents who were either in school, in training, or working indicated that they would have to cease these activities if day care in the center where their child was enrolled was not available to them and this was viewed by them as costly and as a loss to the child and to themselves.

4. In the majority of cases, where the mother was the sole support of the household, this would mean that she would have to apply for public assistance at least until the youngest child was eligible for school.

In the cases where there were two parents, there would be loss of income or real sacrifice in terms of upward mobility and one of the parents would either discontinue his education or quit his job.

The only exception to the interruption of the parent's present activities if comparable day care center services were not available for their child, were the very few one and two parent families with incomes sufficient to pay for private day care or some other arrangement which would be costly.

5. Respondents would not consider a baby sitter as an acceptable or satisfactory alternative to the child care being provided by the day care center their child was attenting.

6. An overwhelming majority of respondents, 430 or 71.20 percent, indicated that use of the Day Care Center for their child was instrumental in either helping them move off the welfare roles through jobs, job training or school while their child was being cared for, or was keeping them from applying for welfare.

This was even more pronounced for the one parent families where 359 said they would either be unable to get off welfare or would be forced to ask for Public Assistance if their children could not be cared for in the center. This number represents 83.49 percent of the total one parent families and 64.57 percent of the total respondents.

7. The comparative dollar cost of putting families represented in the survey on Public Assistance is 216 percent, or over twice as great as providing the minimum cost of day care for the children, when only the basic assistance grant and average medical expenses are taken into consideration in projecting the welfare costs.

Projections do not include job training or other activities which might be added to the expenses of welfare families. Also, the inclusion of present welfare recipients in the sample lowers the projections.

8. Payment of fees for Day Care by families in the sample does not indicate any consistent relationship to the family income or family size. At every income level there are families paying minimal, maximum and no fees, although more families at middle or higher income levels pay all or a greater percent of the day care cost.

There seems to be a need for the development of an adequate fee scale which would take into account income, family size and the amount which can be afforded for day care whether or not there are one or several children in need of this care and also one which would take unusual expenses into consideration.

9. Respondents in the survey represent a highly disporportionate number of one parent female-headed households with few children.

This would seem to indicate that these Day Care Centers are particularly essential to young mothers with young children who are heads of households. Apparently, there is little or no support from extended families on either the parternal or maternal side.

It suggests that the needs of these families need further study and perhaps provision of further supportive services in order to enable the parents to become and continue to be self-sustaining, contributing members of society and to stay off the welfare roles, as well as assisting the optimal development of their children.

10. Responses to this survey make a STRONG CASE for Day Care in Chicago.

STATISTICAL TABLES

STATISTICAL TABLES

The tables provide information for the total sample (Tables I-V) and for those families not on welfare, who indicate that they would apply for Public Assistance if Day Care Centers Services were not available for their children (Tables VI-IX), for total families and for one and two parent families in each income category.

Included in each Table

Number of families
Average family size
Total number of children in families
Average number of children per family

Total number of children in Day Care
- Number in full day care
- Number in before and after school care

Percentage projected welfare cost to minimum day care cost

Difference in amount of welfare cost to day care cost

Projected welfare cost
Projected minimum day care costs

Reported take home pay of families
Reported fees paid for day care
Percentage income paid in day care fees

Average per family:
- Projected minimum day care cost
- Projected welfare cost
- Annual take home pay

Index to Statistical Tables

TOTAL FAMILIES IN THE STUDY

I. Grand Total

II. Families on Welfare

III. Families with Annual Take Home Pay at or Below 1.50 Times the Basic Public Assistance Grant Level

IV. Families with Annual Take Home Pay Between 1.51 and 2.33 Times the Basic Public Assistance Grant Level

V. Families with Annual Take Home Pay at 2.34 Times the Basic Public Assistance Grant Level and Over

FAMILIES NOT ON WELFARE WHO INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD APPLY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IF SERVICES OF THE DAY CARE CENTERS WERE NOT AVAILABLE

VI. Total of Families Not on Welfare

VII. Families with Annual Take Home Pay at or Below 1.50 Times the Basic Public Assistance Grant Level

VIII. Families with Annual Take Home Pay Between 1.51 and 2.33 Times the Basic Public Assistance Grant Level

IX. Families with Annual Take Home Pay 2.34 Times the Basic Public Assistance Grant Level and Over

SUMMARY TABLE I

COSTS OF DAY CARE COMPARED TO COSTS OF WELFARE FOR ONE AND TWO PARENT FAMILIES USING NOT-FOR-PROFIT DAY CARE CENTERS IN CHICAGO

	Total	One Parent	Two Parent
Number of Families	566	430	136
Average Family Size	3.70	3.43	4.57
Total Number of Children	1395	1046	349
Average No. per Family	2.46	2.43	2.57
Total No. in Day Care	737	553	164
No. in Full Day Care	663	500	163
No. in Before/After School Care	74	53	21
Percentage Welfare Cost vs Day Care Cost[1]	216%	212%	229%
Difference in Amount-Welfare vs Day Care Cost	$1,285,444	$933,979	$351,465
Projected Welfare Cost	$2,390,644	$1,765,799	$624,865
Projected Day Care Cost	$1,105,200	$ 831,800	$273,400
Reported Take Home Pay of Families	$2,747,399	$1,691,979	$1,055,420
Reported Fees Paid for Day Care	$ 165,134	$ 97,500	$ 67,634
Percentage Income Paid in Fees	6.01%	5.76%	6.41%
Percentage of Day Care Cost Paid in Fees	14.94%	11.72%	24.74%
Average per Family			
Day Care Cost	$ 1,953	$ 1,934	$ 2,010
Welfare Cost	$ 4,224	$ 4,106	$ 4,595
Take Home Pay	$ 4,854	$ 3,935	$ 7,760

[1] Percentage Welfare Costs vs Day Care Costs

Based on $1,835 per child per year in full day care	190%	186%	207%
Based on $2,020 per child per year in full day care	173%	169%	183%

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TABLE II

FAMILIES ON WELFARE

	Total	One Parent	Two Parent
Number of Families	201	184	17
Average Family Size	3.92	3.82	5.12
Total Number of Children	571	519	53
Average No. per Family	2.84	2.82	3.12
Total No. in Day Care	263	241	22
No. in Full Day Care	263	241	22
No. in Before/After School Care	-	-	-
Percentage Welfare Cost vs Day Care Cost	198%	195%	235%
Difference in Amount-Welfare vs Day Care Cost	$413,632	$336,218	$47,414
Projected Welfare Cost	$834,432	$751,818	$82,614
Projected Day Care Cost	$420,800	$385,600	$35,200
Reported Take Home Pay of Families	$581,443	$510,391	$71,052
Reported Fees Paid for Day Care	$ 14,712	$ 13,260	$ 1,452
Percentage Income Paid in Fees	2.53%	2.60%	2.04%
Percentage of Day Care Cost Paid in Fees	3.50%	3.44%	4.13%
Average per Family			
Day Care Cost	$ 2,093	$ 2,096	$ 2,071
Welfare Cost	$ 4,151	$ 4,086	$ 4,860
Take Home Pay	$ 2,892	$ 2,774	$ 4,179

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TABLE III

FAMILIES WITH INCOMES UNDER 150 PERCENT OF BASIC WELFARE GRANT

	Total	One Parent	Two Parent
Number of Families	110	85	25
Average Family Size	4.15	4.02	5.83
Total Number of Children	353	256	97
Average No. per Family	3.21	3.02	3.88
Total No. in Day Care	139	108	31
No. in Full Day Care	127	99	28
No. in Before/After School Care	12	9	3
Percentage Wefare Cost vs Day Care Cost	243%	228%	249%
Difference in Amount-Welfare vs Day Care Cost	$300,659	$210,245	$ 90,414
Projected Welfare Cost	$511,059	$374,045	$137,014
Projected Day Care Cost	$210,400	$163,800	$ 46,600
Reported Take Home Pay of Families	$427,800	$307,392	$120,408
Reported Fees Paid for Day Care	$ 14,778	$ 10,268	$ 4,510
Percentage Income Paid in Fees	3.45%	3.34%	3.75%
Percentage of Day Care Cost Paid in Fees	7.02%	6.27%	9.68%
Average per Family			
Day Care Cost	$ 1,913	$ 1,927	$ 1,864
Welfare Cost	$ 4,646	$ 4,400	$ 5,481
Take Home Pay	$ 3,889	$ 3,616	$ 4,816

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TABLE IV

FAMILIES WITH INCOMES BETWEEN 150 AND 233 PERCENT OF BASIC WELFARE GRANT

	Total	One Parent	Two Parent
Number of Families	170	126	44
Average Family Size	3.27	2.79	4.64
Total Number of Children	342	226	116
Average No. per Family	2.02	1.79	2.64
Total No. in Day Care	228	163	65
No. in Full Day Care	181	124	57
No. in Before/After School Care	47	39	8
Percentage Welfare Cost vs Day Care Cost	231%	238%	215%
Difference in Amount-Welfare vs Day Care Cost -- $	417,031	$307,034	$109,997
Projected Welfare Cost $	734,831	$528,834	$205,997
Projected Day Care Cost $	317,800	$221,800	$ 96,000
Reported Take Home Pay of Families $	891,320	$616,628	$274,692
Reported Fees Paid for Day Care $	60,240	$ 43,668	$ 16,572
Percentage Income Paid in Fees	6.76%	7.08%	6.03%
Percentage of Day Care Cost Paid in Fees	18.96%	19.69%	17.26%
Average per Family			
Day Care Cost $	1,869	$ 1,760	$ 2,182
Welfare Cost $	4,322	$ 4,197	$ 4,682
Take Home Pay $	5,243	$ 4,894	$ 6,243

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TABLE V

FAMILIES WITH INCOMES OVER 233 PERCENT OF THE BASIC WELFARE GRANT

	Total	One Parent	Two Parent
Number of Families	85	35	50
Average Family Size	3.09	2.29	3.66
Total Number of Children	128	45	83
Average No. per Family	1.51	1.29	1.66
Total No. in Day Care	107	41	66
No. in Full Day Care	92	36	56
No. in Before/After School Care	15	5	10
Percentage Welfare Cost vs Day Care Cost	199%	183%	208%
Difference in Amount-Welfare vs Day Care Cost	$ 154,122	$ 50,482	$103,640
Projected Welfare Cost	$ 310,322	$111,082	$199,240
Projected Day Care Cost	$ 156,200	$ 60,600	$ 95,600
Reported Take Home Pay of Families	$ 846,836	$257,568	$589,268
Reported Fees Paid for Day Care	$ 75,404	$ 30,304	$ 45,100
Percentage Income Paid in Fees	8.90%	11.76%	7.65%
Percentage of Day Care Cost Paid in Fees	48.27%	50.00%	47.18%
Average per Family			
Day Care Cost	$ 1,838	$1,731	$1,912
Welfare Cost	$ 3,651	$3,174	$3,985
Take Home Pay	$ 9,963	$7,359	$11,785

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SUMMARY TABLE VI

COSTS OF DAY CARE COMPARED TO COSTS OF WELFARE FOR ONE AND TWO PARENT FAMILIES USING NOT-FOR-PROFIT DAY CARE CENTERS IN CHICAGO -- FOR FAMILIES NOT ON WELFARE WHO INDICATE THEY WOULD APPLY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IF DAY CARE CENTER SERVICES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

	Total	One Parent	Two Parent
Number of Families	260	228	32
Average Family Size			
Total Number of Children	617	500	117
Average No. per Family			
Total No. in Day Care	341	291	50
No. in Full Day Care	277	240	37
No. in Before/After School Care	64	51	13
Percentage Welfare Cost vs Minimum Day Care Costs[1]	232%	230%	246%
Difference in Amount-Welfare vs Day Care Cost	$ 636,102	$538,289	$ 97,813
Projected Welfare Cost	$1,117,702	$952,889	$164,813
Projected Day Care Cost	$ 481,600	$414,600	$ 67,000
Reported Take Home Pay of Families	$1,231,740	$1,039,424	$192,316
Reported Fees Paid for Day Care	$ 80,234	$ 71,844	$ 8,390
Percentage Income Paid in Fees	6.51%	6.91%	4.36%
Percentage of Day Care Cost Paid in Fees	16.66%	17.33%	12.52%
Average per Family			
Day Care Cost	$ 1,852	$ 1,818	$ 2,094
Welfare Cost	$ 4,299	$ 4,179	$ 5,150
Take Home Pay	$ 4,737	$ 4,559	$ 6,010

[1] Percentage Welfare Costs vs. Day Care Costs

Based on $1,835 per child per year in full day care	204%	202%	218%
Based on $2,020 per child per year in full day care	187%	185%	200%

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TABLE VII

For Families With Take Home Pay 150 Percent or Under Welfare Grant

COSTS OF DAY CARE COMPARED TO COSTS OF WELFARE FOR ONE AND TWO PARENT FAMILIES USING NOT FOR PROFIT DAY CARE CENTERS IN CHICAGO -- FOR FAMILIES NOT ON WELFARE WHO INDICATE THEY WOULD APPLY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IF DAY CARE CENTER SERVICES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

	Total	One Parent	Two Parent
Number of Families	98	82	16
Average Family Size	4.38	4.02	6.18
Total Number of Children	315	248	67
Average No. per Family	3.21	3.02	4.19
Total No. in Day Care	125	105	20
No. in Full Day Care	113	96	17
No. in Before/After School Care	12	9	3
Percentage Welfare Cost vs Minimum Day Care Costs[1]	238%	227%	295%
Difference in Amount-Welfare vs Day Care Cost	$258,693	$202,003	$56,690
Projected Welfare Cost	$446,693	$361,003	$85,690
Projected Day Care Cost	$188,000	$159,000	$29,000
Reported Take Home Pay of Families	$373,368	$298,848	$74,520
Reported Fees Paid for Day Care	$ 13,638	$ 10,268	$ 3,370
Percentage Income Paid in Fees	3.65%	3.44%	4.52%
Percentage of Day Care Cost Paid in Fees	7.25%	6.46%	11.62%
Average per Family			
Day Care Cost	$ 1,918	$ 1,939	$ 1,813
Welfare Cost	$ 4,558	$ 4,402	$ 5,356
Take Home Pay	$ 3,810	$ 3,644	$ 4,657

[1] Percentage of Welfare Costs vs. Day Care Costs

Based on $1,835 per child per year in full day care	204%	202%	218%
Based on $2,020 per child per year in full day care	187%	185%	200%

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TABLE VIII

For Families with Take Home Pay Between 150 and 233 Percent Welfare Grant

COSTS OF DAY CARE COMPARED TO COSTS OF WELFARE FOR ONE AND TWO PARENT FAMILIES USING NOT-FOR-PROFIT DAY CARE CENTERS IN CHICAGO -- FOR FAMILIES NOT ON WELFARE WHO INDICATE THEY WOULD APPLY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IF DAY CARE CENTER SERVICES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

	Total	One Parent	Two Parent
Number of Families	137	125	12
Average Family Size	2.99	2.80	5.00
Total Number of Children	261	225	36
Average No. per Family	1.91	1.80	3.00
Total No. in Day Care	183	162	21
No. in Full Day Care	138	123	15
No. in Before/After School Care	45	39	6
Percentage Welfare Cost vs Minimum Day Care Costs[1]	236%	239%	212%
Difference in Amount-Welfare vs Day Care Cost	$336,527	$305,541	$30,986
Projected Welfare Cost	$584,327	$525,741	$58,586
Projected Day Care Cost	$247,800	$220,200	$27,600
Reported Take Home Pay of Families	$689,528	$611,972	$77,556
Reported Fees Paid for Day Care	$ 47,748	$ 43,548	$ 4,200
Percentage Income Paid in Fees	6.92%	7.12%	5.42%
Percentage of Day Care Cost Paid in Fees	19.27%	19.78%	7.17%
Average per Family			
Day Care Cost	$ 1,809	$ 1,762	$ 2,300
Welfare Cost	$ 4,265	$ 4,206	$ 4,882
Take Home Pay	$ 5,033	$ 4,896	$ 6,463

[1] Percentage Welfare Costs vs Day Care Costs

Based on $1,835 per child per year in full day care	204%	202%	218%
Based on $2,020 per child per year in full day care	187%	185%	200%

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TABLE IX

For Families with Take Home Pay 234 Percent or Over Welfare Grant

COSTS OF DAY CARE COMPARED TO COSTS OF WELFARE FOR ONE AND TWO PARENT FAMILIES USING NOT-FOR-PROFIT DAY CARE CENTERS IN CHICAGO -- FOR FAMILIES NOT ON WELFARE WHO INDICATE THEY WOULD APPLY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IF DAY CARE CENTER SERVICES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

	Total	One Parent	Two Parent
Number of Families	25	21	4
Average Family Size	2.80	2.86	5.50
Total Number of Children	41	27	14
Average No. per Family	1.64	1.29	3.50
Total No. in Day Care	33	24	9
No. in Full Day Care	26	21	5
No. in Before/After School Care	7	3	4
Percentage Welfare Cost vs Minimum Day Care Costs-	189%	187%	197%
Difference in Amount-Welfare vs Day Care Cost	40882	30745	10,137
Projected Welfare Cost	86,682	66145	20,537
Projected Day Care Cost	45,800	35400	10,400
Reported Take Home Pay of Families	168,844	128604	40,240
Reported Fees Paid for Day Care	18,848	18,028	820
Percentage Income Paid in Fees	11.16%	14.02%	2.04%
Percentage of Day Care Cost Paid in Fees	41.15%	50.93%	7.88%
Average per Family			
Day Care Cost	1832	1686	2600
Welfare Cost	3467	3150	5134
Take Home Pay	6754	6124	10,060
[1] Percentage Welfare Costs vs Day Care Costs			
Based on $1,835 per child per year in full day care	204%	202%	218%
Based on $2,020 per child per year in full day care	187%	185%	200%

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EXCERPTS FROM COMMENTS MADE BY PARENTS

EXCERPTS FROM COMMENTS MADE BY PARENTS

(Parent's occupation, number of children and monthly income are indicated)

General Comments

"Being immigrants in the country, we have no friends or relatives who can take care of our children for us while we are at work. The center has enabled both of us to make a decent living for ourselves and at the same time we are confident about the fact that our children are properly fed, educated in all aspect --- and we feel at ease that the children are in good hands, the center is something we can trust. The children in turn have the chance of developing better English language and [illegible] with other people of all nations as the center is [illegible] the center is very near our residence."

Serviceman Representative and medical transcriber - 2 children - ($990)

"If I don't have someone to care for my children I would be unable to work. So I guess that would mean welfare for me. I feel I'm a healthy person and could work, but my children would come first. I can't leave them in the streets before or after school nor by themselves alone at home. My children and I am very happy with (the center) .... they also learn while at (the center). By the time I get out of work and get home I have time to cook, clean up and get the children off to bed - I'm tired by then. At (the center) they play, get their homework done, go on trips after school. I nor a babysitter would have time for this. ...I have worked since I was 16 years old and sitting home waiting for a check to come to me every month would make me lazy and not proud that I couldn't make it on my own. I love to work it makes me feel good."

Clerk - 3 children - ($460)

"I really don't know. I know no one else and other school are too far or expensive, more than I can afford. It would disturb my sons as well as myself and mess my whole life. There would be nothing for me to better my self or sons. I wouldn't be possible to make other arrangements....it effect my career in College and a better life for me & my sons & a good job after college....Live day by day & poor, no future.... very disappointed in government in help the poor and to education the unlucky one. Would be very bitter to government and to life. This is the first time in my whole life I'm making something of myself. I finally got a break of luck. Please don't mess it up for me and my sons."

Student-ADC - 2 children - ($290)

"I have two older children who require psycho-therapy so I need regular day care for my four-year old.....My school age children go after school so I can work when able for (temporary clerical agency). My four year old goes every day so her life can be stable and healthy as possible away from the trauma of the crisis involved with her older brother and sister and recent divorce, health problems, etc. I will not be able to afford another arrangement. I am not eligible for ADC. Without (this center) my family will be severely traumatized. I will be unable to work at all -- My children do not have a healthy alternative or substitution. My oldest child will perhaps become completely disturbed beyond help or hope....I am the only member of our family old enough to work -- I refuse to leave my children unattended or in the hands of incompetents. Day care is the base which makes everything possible. The federal funds cutback also includes the facility where my children receive therapy and therefore our whole life structure will change."

Mother - 3 children - child support ($320)

"My children need the early exposure to school. The school is helping them a lot. They are learning to get along with other children they are being taught responsibility, self image, alphabet, numbers, animals and so many other things. While they are in school this lets me go to school to prepare for a job. Their future is at stake. If I drop out of school that means I cannot improve myself in school therefore I will have to remain on ADC."

ADC mother in job training - 7 children

"i think By Being able to send my Gran child to a day Care near By is a Good thing and also there it is a must for this community it's also helping me to help my self this is how I becom Fedral employed on a part time job through Job training. so i feel like By sending my child is a contribution in its self open ways for jobs for peoples who had this training."

418 Lunchroom attendant - 1 child - ($240)

"I'm separated and I'm on ADC. I'm trying to get more or better for my children that's why I put them to Day Care Center so that I can be on training program. I don't have no family who can stay with them at home and I can't afford for a private babysitter. That's why the Day Care Center is so helpful to us."

Trainee - 3 children

"I have a weight and female problem and am constantly going to the doctor. I also have signed up for type training. By me having to go to the doctor so regularly and most of my appointments are early in the morning, this eliminated a sitter...also she has progressed a great deal by going to the center. She will be perfectly prepared for kindergarten. Also when the type program starts I won't have to have a sitter.

ADC mother entering job training
4 children ($260)

"I wants everyone to Read this don't hide this from anyone...

i am the Grandmother. the mother ran away 2 months ago
While i was at work. i had to call my jobe to get a 6 monthes leave
of absent to care for the 2 little ones to keep them for Going in
to a orfing home...

The child gets exlan good care
the principle and the teachers are lovely peoples
the child is well cared for
he also love the bust driver
this means all Kids are happy

Mr. Mayor Please keep it open
the nice hot food and the salery
and it cost to operate the bust
the day care center has a warm nice bust to pick those Kids up
and drive them to the Center and Bring them home
every one is just verry nice...

for my Grandchild it would affect him terbly bad
he is happy every day
he tell me he love the Kids and the teachers
and the food is very nice

i do no the hole set up is more and nicer than words...

Please Save Day Care Center God nows it is important."

Hospital Service Worker
caring for two grandchildren

"We would continue to remain a close knit family, but the road leading out of the ghetto would have a few more curves and bigger bumps, but we as a family, have been known to overcome obstacles before. What we are trying to accomplish now is a change in our life-style from below average to average income Mr. and Mrs. Joe Citizen."

Security Guard and Secretarial College
Student, who would leave school
earning $670 per month
2 children

"This center is doing for me what my own mother wouldn't do. As long as I work, I can stay off public aid. For I don't trust just anyone to keep my darling children."

Janitor and park-time clerk
earning $588 per month
3 children

2. The following comments discuss what families would do if day care servies were not available.

"That really up to the government to decide...there really isn't anything else I could do since my husband and I are separated my only means of support would be welfare."

Jr. Computer Operator, 2 children - $454

"This is the only place I know I will get quality care and if I did not have nursery school I would have to quit work and go on ADC. But this school is helping me be independent for myself be useful to my community."

Clerk - $324

"My daughter loves going to the center. It helps her to get alone with other children. And it has prepared her for elementary school, and it's made her very alert, well manner and extremely smart for her age. ... I would have to find a sitter, which I have no money for, being on welfare. ... I am not with my husband any more so I have to take care of my daughter by myself, her education and a decency life. Which can't be done on welfare. If my Daughter couldn't continue in the day care center, it cause me to quit school, which would cripple my ability for a good job."

Student, ADC - 1 child - $157

"I send my child so he can learn to get along with others his age, so that his mind will develop mentally, socially as well as physically, and at the same time I can be free to get some training so I can get a good paying job to support my son and me without any help from welfare.... I would remain on ADC for many years, and my child wouldn't have the learning he needs most."

ADC mother - entering job training - $134

"I would not be able to work--I love working--I would have to apply for aid to dependent mothers" and I would not like to be a ward of the state. ....I would be poor, bored, and probably get lazy."

Office worker - 1 child - $360

I couldn't finish school and if I don't I wouldn't be able to find a suitable job."

ADC - Student - 1 Child

"It would affect them a very great deal because we would be on aid and out of luck."

Parent coordinator - 4 children - $480

"Well, I could no longer work because it isn't anyone else I trust my children with....It would affect other families the same as mine, what affect do you think the president would have if all the families had to go on aid."

Teacher aid - evening student - 2 children
$400

"I could possibly find a babysitter (which I know of none I could depend on) and not be sure my children are even eating properly."

Clerk - Student - 4 children - $350

"I would have to get someone to keep her. The other nurseries are to expensive and I have to budget being alone."

Clerk - 2 children - $475

"I would have to get a baby sitter and they don't care for your child or teach him everything. They just want their money on Friday and that's it. It would affect him in the way of learning to share, to play with other kids, to learn to count, to say his ABC's, to learn to spell his name, his telephone number, where he live and many other things."

Clerk typist - 1 child - $303.44

"I do not think a private sitter is as good--they can not always be trusted or depended upon-also in a day care center children learn to play with other children and also the value of sharing...my first two children went to the same day care center-so I have always been able to provide for myself without asking for aide."

Nurse - Husband unemployed because of illness - 3 children - $432

"We would have to travel all over the city from relative to relative and neighbor to neighbor and I would hear 'Why don't you train your child--She did this and she did that today.'...(This center) is a school where individual attention is given to every child and everyone who I have talked with notices the good behavior of the children attending. The hours are long enough for me, who has to leave so earlier and return later than some schools are open. My child has calmed down and become a better adjusted child within the one year she has been attending here compared to the two years she attended other nurseries."

Clerk typist - 1 child - $360

"My mother would have to keep him and she is a disable person who is very sick."

Accounting Clerk - 1 child - $450

"Maybe let her go to school by herself...
I would be worried to death if I left her alone. But if I let her go (to school) with the other girls in the neighborhood she might pick up their smoking habits at 6. I probably would have to quit school and work study."

Student - 2 children - $183, and occasional child support

"We would have to stay home and live forever in poverty."

Student - 1 child

"Public Aid which I am trying to get off...Yes I would be right back where I started no hope or future just despair and poverty."

Trainee - ADC - 1 child - $160

"Try to find a babysitter near my home or send him out of state to my grandmother."

Work study student - 2 children

"My children have been in a ...(Family day care home)...and they were mistreated. I have heard nothing but good from my children concerning (this center) and it would be another worry if I had to take my children out of their care. When my oldest child was taken care of by a home he got lost coming home and I had to have the POLICE out looking for him---at that time he was 5 yrs. old and in Public kindergarten--no supervision from adult when walking to and from school. At (This center) they are providing bus transportation to and from public school...I checked into 21 day cares in Chicago and this was the first that could take me at my salary scale. I don't want to quit work--I want to support my children myself. That's all I ask."

Receptionist - 2 children - $380

"First of all I was a drop out due to having a child. I couldn't seem to find myself and so I didn't even try attending school because I didn't have anyone to care for my child. So as soon as I heard about the center I took my G.E.D. (For H.S. Diploma) and entered college. Thanks to the center I have 2 more semesters and would graduate in 1 yr...I don't know of any other source in Chicago. I'd probably send her to Miss. to stay with an a aunt...I feel that it would be a very traumatic experience for my daughter and I to be separated. But if it is the only solution I have know other choice To separate might mean losing her love she has for her mother. ...I would be under a terrible strain if I had to study and worry about my child 700 miles away."

Student - ACE - 1 child - $240

"My 80 year old aunt was caring for my child previously. Because of my aunt's age and various conditions my child developed a serious speech impediment due to bottled up nerves--since being in the center with other children it has ceased. My child would become stiffled to the possible extent of mental retardation...I would have to discontinue my studies."

Meter reader and student - 1 child - $500

"It would mean the difference in having proper clothing and food and not having proper clothing and food."

Teacher and wife - 2 children - $842

"There would be a shortage of food and clothings."

Sewing machine operator - 2 children - $360

3. The following give reasons why the children attend the day care centers, and discuss how the loss of the centers would affect them.

"I'm also assured of his schedule and nutritional needs being met, and that he is secure in his environment. Not at the mercy of some(Maybe) crackpot... I don't know how I could work and pay almost a third of my take home pay (for child care) and still survive, without perhaps taking advantage of some kind of public assistance...I do feel that perhaps he may reverse some of his habits such as eating, sleeping, bathroom necessities, his temper would I'm sure be adversely affected, or his feeling of security. It would almost certainly incease my feelings of aprehension about his welfare and be a constant distraction on my being able to perform this job to the best of my abilities. I am on the verge of assuming a great deal of responsibility on my job and the tension of being under tension as far as my son and the job, would be adversely expressed."

Assistant Office Manager - 1 child - $583.92

"I send my child to this center, because he is an only child and he doesn't have any children of his own age to play with. A am a widow and this particular school offers men teachers. This is particularly important since he will get some sort of male supervision....If I could not send my child to this center, I would probably have to quit school. I would have to get a job to pay his tutition and child care. Maybe go on welfare...I'm sure there would be lots of hostility in the family in the sense that I would not be able to continue my education and he would have to reorient himself to another kind of learning situation, perhaps on that he does not feel comfortable in."

Student - 1 child - $308 Social Security

"It would affect our child in many ways. Such as cutting off her interest in learning. Because since she has been in Day Care she loves to learn and go to school. She actually cries when she can not go."

Public Aid Family - $550

"It would affect my daughter, her not being prepared for the change. It would totally confuse her, and I wouldn't know how to explain it to her. How do you explain to a little girl that she can't attend her school which she's been going to for a year or more."

Clinic clerk attending LPN training-
1 child $382

PROFILES OF TWO PARENT FAMILIES WHO WOULD BECOME INELIGIBLE UNDER THE HEW REGULATIONS THAT FAMILIES MUST MEET THE ADC REQUIREMENTS

PROFILES OF TWO-PARENT FAMILIES, BOTH OF WHOM ARE WORKING OR LOOKING FOR WORK, WHO WOULD BECOME INELIGIBLE UNDER THE HEW REGULATION THAT FAMILIES MUST MEET ADC REQUIREMENTS.

97. Grandfather, aged 59, janitor. Take-home pay $300 or $3600 per year. Wife not working, probably incapable of caring for 1 child, aged 3.

313. Tax clerk, 32, and student, 29. Take home pay $300 per month. One child, 3 years old. Wife would drop out of school.

61. Mother, clerk, 24, earns $372 per month or $4,464 per year. Father in school. One 3 year old child in center, paying $50 per month. Both want to finish college.

455. Husband, 40, student. Mother, 34, typist earning $380 per month, $4,560 per 1 child, aged 4, in center paying $60 per month. He would have to quit school.

220. Father, 29, unemployed carpenter. Mother, 28, clerk typist, $90 per week or $4,740 per year. One child, 5, in center at $45 per month fee. Mother would quit work and there would be no income.

225. Father, 24, University of Chicago student. Mother, 22, secretary, $400 per month , $4800 per year. One child, 2½. pays $140 per month. Husband couldn't continue full time in school. Their life style, already meager, would drop.

177. Father, 26, meter reader, $500 per month or $6,000 per year. Mother, 25, student at Chicago State. Three year old child in day care center at $50 per month plus $15 fees. Mother would have to quit school--previous arrangement with aunt caring for child had adverse effects on child and caused speech impediment.

32. Father, 26, garage attendant, $140 per week. Mother, 24, secretary, $400 per month. Child, 4, in day care paying $60 per month.

428. Father, 28, mother, 27. His occupation not identified, hers--flatwork. Combined income, $5,568. One 4 year old in day care at $30 per month. Would take child out of city to her mother. Cannot make it on husband's income ($96 per week). Hers, $46 per week.

240. Father, 21, laborer, $365 per month. Mother, 17 year old student. One 4 year old, day care at no charge. Mother would have to stop school or leave him at her mother's.

221. Father, 40--hospitalized for 20 months. Mother, 28, works as community aide at Model Cities. One 3 year old son, pays $4.10 per month for day care. Would go on public aid.

164. Father, 29, cab driver earning $240 per month. Mother, 24, part-time secretary, $160 per month--$4,800 per year. One child in day care "to further advance her smarts"--no payment. Cannot afford sitter.

426. Father, 30, clerk, also going to university. Earns $501 per month. Mother, 25, is looking for work. Their two girls, aged 3 and 5, attend center at $20 per month. The family is from India and the children are earning English.

57. Father, 26, factory worker and going to school. $425 per month. Mother, 22, student. Two and three and-a-half year old pay $48 per month for day care. Mother would not be able to go to school to better self and income--she and children would be in small apartment all day, no activity.

375. Father earning $5,760 per year. Mother going to Beauty School. Three and four year olds in day care at $27.50 for both. Mother would withdraw from school.

516. Father, 25, desk clerk earning $6,000. Mother, 24, is attempting to start school. Children (aged 3 and 4, in day care at no charge) "would not learn the things they would in school" --mother would stay home.

162. Father, 30, disabled assembly employee for motor company...no salary given. Mother, nursery school teacher at #302 per month. Children, 2 and 4, in day care center at $120 per month. They could not pay bills and eat on husband's sick pay--would need public aid.

55. Father, mail handler, $5,760 per year. Mother wants to go to work. Three year old in center, two year old evidently at home now--no fees. Children would lose benefits center provides and mother could not work.

312. Father, 27, free lance musician. Mother, 25, clerk-typist. $5,376 per year. Four year old and 2½ year old in day care, $41 per month. No alternative--this enables her to support them and enriches their environment for a better head start in their first years of school.

224. Father, clerk, $5,700 per month. Mother student and housewife. Children 4 and 10, 4 year old in day care--no fee. Provides headstart for child and enables mother to go to school. "We would be struggling for at least 3 more years to become middle class. My daughter would not get an adequate headstart in education and social training and I would not be able to continue my training for a good paying job."

369. Father, 38, draftsman, $468 per month. Mother, 33, housewife in job training. Three year old in day care--no fee. Another child 10. Wife would have to stay home and discontinue training.

228. Father, nurses aide, $500 per month. Mother, student continuing advanced training. Children 9 months and 4 years--4 year old in day care, no fee. Child would suffer from lack of day care environment and expert guidance--mother couldn't work.

594 Father, security guard, $600 per month. Mother, secretarial college student. Daughter--12, Two sons 3 and 4 in day care at $50 per month. Education of children builds the confidence, character and independence a child needs to recognize himself as an individual. "We would continue to be a close knit family but the road leading out of the ghetto would have a few more curves and bigger bumps--but we've been known to overcome obstacles before--the wife would have to remain home until the children could manage themselves. We're trying to accomplish a change in our life style from below average to average income "Mr. and Mrs. Joe Citizen..." Signed by father.

6. Father, 34, Janitor--mother, part time clerk. Combined incomes $7.056 per year. Three children 5, 4, and 1 years old. Four year old in day care. "I'd like to be home when my children leave and return from school to greet them and implant in them a sense of security. But with the skyrocketting cost of living I can't. This center is doing for me what my own mother wouldn't do. As long as I work I can stay off public aid. I don't trust <u>just anyone</u> to keep my darling children--my husband would continue to scuffle and hassel by himself as a very depressed animal.

111. Father, weekend cab driver and full time student. Mother, teacher aide. Total income $5,580. Three children 5½, 4, and 1 years old. Two oldest in day care at $8 per month. Father: "I would have to discontinue my education and go back to work--my wife would have to stop working at the center and the children would suffer a setback.

27. Father, 34, earns $430 a month. Mother, 32, goes to school to get a certificate for future employment. Children aged 7, 6 and 4 in day care center for $26 a week. "If wife and children stopped school it would waste the talents of my wife for future employment and retard the growth of the children--no chance to grow on the job due to no further studies"--Father.

110. Father, 50, laborer. Mother, 34. Income $7,200. Children 4,6, and 16 years. Day care for 4 year old costs $60 a month. "...valuable preschool training...adjusts to discipline..acquaints child to live and study around other children...prepares them to enter regular school...program invaluable...no equal to this type child care...we cannot conceive of any better arrangement...Mayor Daley would <u>never</u> let this program phase out...wife would be forced to tend these children...same results could never be achieved at home."

469. Father is grinder at $500 a month, mother looking for a job. Children 3,4,5 and 6--4 and 5 year olds in day care at $200 a month. "...No advance start for children...mother stuck at home..."

525. Father, 27, machine operator $360 per month--mother, 25, operator, $200 a month--Family income $6,720 per year. Children 7,6,3, and 2--Three year old in day care. Helps her for school...needs better care than with sitter--not reliable and too expensive. Mother would have to stay home and not work...less money to support family...better for child to be with others his own age...access to educational things parents can't provide. "You can't support 4 children with one check--cost of living is too high."

305. Father laborer, mother aide--combined income $8,400 per year. Four children (12, 10, 9, 4). Three youngest in day care, no cost, "..to receive good care that they do not get from baby sitters or grandmothers who are too old and over-worked from youth--only alternative to leave with old grandparents.

73. Father, 38, is CTA trainman, $7,200. Mother, 35, is unemployed and has had four nervous breakdowns. Father has been hospitalized twice for anxiety. Mother is no facing separation and public aid while husband is in hospital. Four children: 12, 11, 7, 4 -- all in center at $80 per month. Want children to have benefit of healthy environment... Mother wants to go back to work and avoid welfare as soon as she is strong enough...has been helping out at center to help meet cost of keeping children...does not know whether husband will return to family. May lose house and husband's job, and go on welfare. Children already in stressful situation.

127. Father, 34, machinist, Mother, 34, is packer--family income, $6,480. Four children aged 13, 12, 10, and 3--youngest in center at no cost. Mother has to work...husband can't take care of family on earnings... no sitter...center takes good care of child and teaches him to learn... he gets wholesome food...(if center closed) couldn't get children food and clothes they need...couldn't work thinking child not taken care of."

126. Father works for Board of Education, $534 per month. Mother, housewife. Four children (14, 12, 10--and 5 year old in day care, no charge). ...Sends child for educational advantages. More than satisfied he'll be ready for kindergarten..If he hadn't had training he might never be ready to leave home and go to school. "I would have to pay someone to keep him and they would not have learned him nothing but how to play and sleep." --Father.

316. Father, 51, jointer, $600 per month. Mother, 37, housewife. Two children in day care at $30 a month, two other children 16 and 18. Mother very nervous...children need experiences they are taught...helps all involved. They would have to stay home...the kids would not get the education they get at the center...baby sitters just want money. "It would be a very bad environment for the children. My husband would lose his job being absent from work to look after children... I have a medical problem and it would be hard for him."

216. Father, laborer, $350 per month. Mother, technician, $350 per month. Four children--15, 14, 12, plus 3 year old in day care at no charge "...to receive qualified care so I can work in place (since I must know he is well taken care of) ...to received balanced meals which poor people are not able to give their children on the salaries we make." Possible alternative care: unqualified baby sitter in a home with fire hazards, etc. (The children would become unstable--baby sitters are not reliable---so many changes have to be made sometimes the parents could lose their job from worry or taking off too much.) One parent might have to stop work. "The children are learning things in Head Start so they are ready for school."

31. Father works nights in a warehouse, $640 per month. Mother is part time clerk, $160 per month. They have a 4 year old in day care, and children 11, 10, 7, and 1½. "She is being taught on the level of Head Start and kindergarten. Baby sitters charge too much for me to pay working on a part time basis. We would be short of money. I would quit work." -- Mother

149. Father, 44, Post Office clerk, $518 per month. Mother, crossing guard, $240 per month. Six children: 17, 16, 12, 6, and 9 months, with a 3 year old in day care for a monthly fee of $40. "I need someone to take care of him when I work and at the day care center it be someone the teacher thing he need to no...it would affect my child that he could get the proper teacher and training and my family the thing that they get to do now would be out...I would stop work and places we go we wouldn't be able to go by I am work--won't be any money."

150. Father, 36, manages a savings and loan for $750 a month. Mother, 32, a journalist. Both in school--father for M.A. and mother for B.A. Six children aged 12, 11, 9, 7, 5 and 4. The youngest is in day care and pays $45 a month. They have own home and send child because it is a good experience for him--5 year old had gone to same center before. Mother would have to stop work.

427. Father unemployed and looking for job. Mother earns $116 per week. Three and 4 year old children in day care with $50 monthly fee. "I had no other choice when children were babies but baby sitter--since this nursery school was open to me it's the best thing that ever happened--the children enjoy going to school there....I would have no choice since I don't have a baby sitter and it would cost much more since my husband isn't working. I like the center because they can play and won't be cooped up all day in a house and can learn. Another arrangement would most affect my children. I could not work and I need my job since I'm the sole support of this house--it would certainly make a change." --Mother

432. Mother, billing clerk, $2,976 per year. Nineteen year old--possibly father--not working apparently. Two children 3½ and 1½. Older in day care at $37.50 per month. "It helps prepare him for school when he get old enough--it helps him to learn many things....I would have to quit work until I could find a baby sitter." --Mother

407. Father, 26, guard at $3,000 per year. Mother, 23, goes to school Three and 5 year old children attend center for $90 per month. Wife couldn't go to school, so less income in the end.

475. Father, 45, janitor earning $5,200. Mother looking for a job. Two children, 3 year old in day care at no cost, also 4 year old. "It advances my child, gives her a chance to get acquainted and learn things she wouldn't learn at home....I would hate to move her--she's used to being active and I wouldn't know where to place her....I couldn't work or attend meetings.

153. Father apparently not working, Mother a teacher aide with $3,744 net take home pay.Two children 2 and 5--5 year old in day care at $10 per month. "We would go on ADC."

274 Father, 23, is book handler, mother is housewife. Two children, 1 and 4. Income $4250. Center used "So my child can be fully prepared when he starts public school and so that I can get things done a little better at home. The center has helped my son tremendously in getting along with others and I would be lost without it. I would have no one to care for them but myself--I wouldn't really know what to do --if I could find a job to help my husband it would be hard because any other family member couldn't and wouldn't have both children for responsibility--I couldn't go to the doctor without taking both children with me or anything else."

477. Father, 22, apparently unemployed. Mother, 21, works as teacher aide at $400 a month. "Well, I could no longer work because it isn't anyone else I trust my children with--we'd just have to go on aid because I'm going to college at night plus I work days and I wouldn't be able to work."

173. Father, 25, student. Mother, 24, works as a secretary. Income uncertain. One child in day care, $60 a month. No friends to care for child--would have to stay home and go on aid.

318. Father, 27, janitor's assistant, also going to college. Mother, 27, student. Income--$2,880. Two children, 6 and 3, in center. Mother volunteers time at center. "I send my child to this day care center to help her adjust to other children and understand that other people can teach her different things. She has become more aware of herself and can do a lot of things by herself that she couldn't do before. ....I would have to drop out of school--a baby sitter would upset my daughter, seh doesn't adjust to people easy. My husband would have to drop out of college....My daughter enjoys going to school. She would just cry all the time."

276. Father is self-employed exterminator, $2,880 a year. Mother, housewife attending touch-typing class. Three children age 21, 16, and 5. The youngest is in day care at no cost. "He has really been helped in many ways--learning to get alone with other childrens--getting a well balanced diet--he has learned to get alone with his mother--he was so attach to me at one time....I would have to leave him with one of my neighbors or stay home and not go to school so I can be prepared to help out."

408. Father, 27, unemployed. Mother, 26, clerk earning $3,600 per year. Three children 7, 3 and 2 months. Three year old in day care--fee, $6.00 per month. "I need someone to care for him while I work. Baby sitters couldn't provide the teaching facilities at the center--the teachers give my child the lovhe he needs while teaching him skills he couldn't get at a baby sitter. This service leaves me free to work with peace of mind....If I used a baby sitter he wouldn't learn and if I stayed home my family couldn't live on $244 a month" (apparent unemployment income of husband).

26. Father,30, is bagger at $400 a month. Mother was in training but now has to care for very ill two year old. Other two children (5 and 4) are in day care at no cost. Day care gives child better start for school and parent has more time for care of ill baby.

553. Father, die setter earning $4,800. Three children 10, 8 and 5. Sends child because she wants to go to school like older children.

572. Both parents, 26 and 25, full time students. Mother also works part time--income, $5,040. Children are 7 and 8, with 4 year old in day care-no cost. Child attends center to receive a preschool education and have opportunity to learn social responsibility and at the same time to enable parents to further their education. Mother would have to stop school and this would affect future job possibilities--child would be adversely affected.

355. Mother, 27, is head of household and works as assistant teacher for $5,050 per year. Father apparently unemployed. Two children, 2½ and 3½ who is in day care at no cost. Sends child to learn to respect and get along with other children. "It would hurt the child itself--they look forward to day care and my child has progressed a lot." If were not available.."I would have to quit work and go on ADC."

465. Mother, nurse (LPN), $5,184. Husband unemployed because of illness. Three children 16, 14, plus a 3 year old in day care paying $50 a month. "I would have to find a private baby sitter which are hard to find. I do not think a private is as good--they can not always be trusted or depended upon--also in a day care center children learn to play with other children and also the value of sharing. ...If I could not use this center I don't know what would happen to the family --my first two children attended the same center. So, I have always been able to provide for myself without asking for aid....I could not continue to work unless some arrangements would be made for my child. ...Because of this day care center I have never had to think of not being able to work."

54. Father, 40, store clerk, $350 per month. Mother,38, file clerk, $300 per month. Three children, 12, 10, and 5, all in after school day care at $60 per month. "We have no relatives here and both have to work. If our children can't attend center we would be affected very badly--it will be much harder for us to make ends meet.... Mother could not continue to work because there would be no one to look after our youngest child....We might have to ask for Welfare-- we would not be able to meet monthly expenses on the $350 salary of my husband."

446. Father, 33, unemployed. Mother, 33, Optometric assistant. $375 a month or $4,500 a year. Four children: 13, 12, 10, and 4 year old attending center(no charge). Alternative would be a baby sitter which would mean child would get no training, be in bad environment, would not have balanced meals and there would be a transportation problem. This would also create a financial problem for the mother because cost of sitter and transportation would come out of her salary.

556. Father, disable veteran, unemployed. Mother has medical problem and is housewife. Their $6,240 income comes from Social Security and veteran's benefits. Four children: 18, 13, 12, and 3 year old in day care at no charge. Mother does volunteer work there. She says: I send my child to the center because I have high blood and so she can be with children of her own age. The center helps her learn many things I cannot teach her. It will help her when she goes to kindergarten....There would be no alternative is she could not go to the center--she would have to stay home. She is determined to go to the center and she will be affected deeply. She would want to do all the things that she did at school which we could not provide.

58. Father, 30, heat treater helper at $400 a month. Mother is bookkeeper at $200 a month. Five children--11,7, and 5, 4, and 3 year olds in day care at $80 per month. "I send children to center where I will be able to work and help provide a living so I can provide proper clothing and food. So they won't have to miss any time out of school....If the center couldn't take my children I would have to stop working and try to get on welfare--there will be a shortage of food and money for clothing."

Father, 58, inspector at $455 a month, mother's occupation not stated. Five children: 17, 16, 15, 12, 7, and 3 year old in day care at $46 monthly fee. Sends child because of the extremely good care--the child likes it a lot and also fees are adjusted. Other alternative would be private day care which would be too expensive and child would not receive educational teaching she is receiving. The family would probably have to go on welfare.

346. Father, 36, not employed. Mother, CHA resident aide, $5,520 per year. Five children (11, 9, 8, 5, and 3) all in day care center for $30 a month. Sends children to center because they are better supervised--get more education than they would at home staying alone until mother gets home from her job. They could never get all of this from any baby sitter. No alternative--can't afford a sitter. Husband is always out and is sick--not able to care for children. If center could not provide this care mother would not be able to work and would have to go back on public aid with less money.

136. Father, 42, laborer earning $200 a month. Mother, typist, earning $240 a month. Five children aged 9, 7, 6, 5 and 2--one in day care for $25 fee monthly. There are no alternatives to care at the center --there is no other person. "We could not survive on one working with prices and inflation. The only other support would be ADC--we have no money--can't live--will starve."

230. Father, machinist earning $394 a month. Mother in job training--also a diabetic. Five children aged 19, 16, 15, 7 and 5. Youngest in day care center at no fee. Sends child to center because it is very educational--she learns how to get along with other children and is showing signs of expressing herself and showing her ability in art and writing. "It is about the best I have seen for little one and the teachers are very good for them. If she couldn't attend the center I would have to keep her at home--All of my children are in other programs at school and some of their activities would have to be cut off. I would not be able to go to school for job training to better myself." --Mother

125. Father is laborer at $400 a month. Mother enrolling in school so she can get a job. Six children aged 15, 14, 12, 10, 9 --and 3 year old in day care at no cost. Use center "...So I can go to school why my other kids are in school during the day. So I can be home with them in evening at night--4 of these are girls--my baby love the day care center so much--since he have been there he is learning very well." If child could not attend this center "It would effect our family badly because he love the school--he will be 4 in December--he has learn so much--I wouldn't be able to attend school....I do not want ADC but would like to work to keep my family myself....I don't know what I would tell my baby happen to his school."

241. Father, punch press operator,$300 per month. Mother looking for work. Seven children aged 18, 17, 15, 14, 11, 8--and 6 year old in day care. "Day care center have been very helpful it have learned my child how to get along with other kids and help me to understand him better. Also I have more time to look for work and I don't have to worry when he is at the center....I would have to stay home every day with him until he was in school....He would go back like he was in the beginning not getting along with other kids and not learning anything....If he could not attend day care center it would stop me from finding a job. ...My husband would have to stay home with the child if one of the sitter's kids got sick....We might have to go on welfare." --Mother

213. Father, machinist, $6,000 per year. Eight children, 15, 14, 13, 10, 8, 7, 5, and 2. Five year old in day care at $40 a month. Mother also works, no pay reported. Child is in center "Because he get to take advantage of the programs that they have to offer...it learn them to get along with other children...give children a early start in life...very good for working mother....You would have to pay a baby sitter and try and teach them yourselves." Mother could not continue to work and pay a sitter for two small children.

86. Father and mother, 44 and 41, self employed earning about $8,400 per year. Eight children 17, 15, 13, 12, 10, 5, 3 and 2 months. Three year old in day care, no fee. "The reason I send my child to day care is because my husband and I work in the store and we have to keep the child in the store with us and she got tired and sleepy. ...If she couldn't go to the center I would have to try to work with her or try to pay someone and that hard to do with a family like I have--I just don't know because we have a large family an jest going along--might have to ask for a little help from Welfare." --Mother

560. Father and mother both work in factory at $360 a month each, $8,640 a year. Nine children, 17, 16, 15, 13, 12, 9, 7, 6, and 4. Youngest in day care at $80 a month. Child is in center "Because me and my husband work and there is really no one to take care of him at home. So me and my husband decided to send him to a day care center where he can learn something. If he cbuldn't go I'd probably have to quit work and stay home to take care of him or higher a baby sitter.... It would affect them very bad because there not used to the idea of having a baby sitter take care of them--they would be very disappointed with the cutting of the center....The way it would affect us is that there would be a child kept home from school to take care of him." --Mother

ELIGIBILITY OF TWO PARENT FAMILIES UNDER NEW REGULATIONS FOR USE OF TITLE IV-A FUNDS

The data in a recent study of families using not-for-profit day care centers in Chicago [1], indicates that two parent families need day care for their children just as much as those families headed by one female parent. Over 60 percent (63.24%) of the two parent families in the study were either on welfare (12.50%), earning less than 150 percent of the basic welfare grant (18.38%) or had earnings between 151 percent and 2.33 percent of the basic welfare grant.

Of those two parent families whose incomes fell below 233 percent of the basic welfare grant:

* Both parents were working and the mother's income was crucial for the support of the family in almost 40 percent of cases (38.88%).

* The mother was the sole support of the family in another 21 percent of cases while the father was unemployed (5.97%), or in school or job training (14.93%).

* The mother was in school or in job training preparing to take a job in 25.37 percent of cases.

* Of the remaining families (14.93%), over half reported extenuating circumstances which made it impossible for the mothers either to work or provide adequate care of the child at home. These included the extremely poor health of the mother, a sibling whose problems required the mother's constant care, a severely disabled father, or very poor uneducated grandparents who were not capable of caring for the child alone.

The day care need for both the child and his family was clear in all the cases where income was below 233 percent of the basic welfare grant. It was to a lesser degree, also present in the remaining 37 percent of families where income was over this figure. If the mother's income was lost, these families would be in the poor or near poor categories, and the parents would lose the opportunities to continue in school or in jobs. It therefore seems justifiable, on an economic basis, to provide day care services under Title IV-A funded programs to two parent families as well as to one parent families and to provide it on the same financial eligibility criteria as for the one parent families.

[1] Syler, Murrell and Kemper, Patty Gregory, "A Case For Day Care In Chicago," The Mayor's Office of Child Care Services, Chicago, Illinois, June 1973

Otherwise, the mother who is assisting her husband becomes unable to earn this small income to keep the family financially stable. The father is also unable to either work towards a better economic status or take further schooling or training toward this end and they are both prevented from helping the family out of poverty.

ANALYSIS OF TWO PARENT FAMILIES EARNING BELOW 233 PERCENT OF THE BASIC WELFARE GRANT IN THE STUDY "A CASE FOR DAY CARE IN CHICAGO"

	No.	Percent	Average Income per person	Average Income per family	Average No. children under 6
FAMILY OF 3 PERSONS	13				
parents and one child		19.40%	$1,600	$5,409	1.00
FAMILY OF 4 PERSONS	19				
parents and two children		28.36%	$1,222	$4,889	1.31
FAMILY OF 5 PERSONS	12				
parents and three children		17.91%	$1,125	$5,625	1.66
FAMILY OF 6 PERSONS	10				
parents and four children		14.93%	$1,126	$6,755	1.30
FAMILY OF 7 PERSONS	6				
parents and five children		8.96%	$ 969	$6,786	1.83
FAMILY OF 8 PERSONS	3				
parents and six children		4.48%	$ 954	$7,632	1.66
FAMILY OF 9-11 PERSONS	4				
parents, seven, eight, ne children		5.96%	$ 666	$6,660	1.00

/dw
or's Office of Child Care Services

LOCATIONS OF CENTERS RESPONDING TO SURVEY